

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: APHIS:MPI:FP:HMSTEINMETZ

APPROVED BY: EB/OF/FPD:MPBOERNER

APHIS:MPI:HMSTEINMETZ VHBERRY FJFULLERTON AGRICRBEVIS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS STATE 054412

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AGR, GW

SUBJ: MEAT INSPECTION

REF: BONN 03158

1. THE COMMENTS BY THE GERMAN LEGISLATORS CONCERNING U.S. MEAT INSPECTION ON THEIR RETURN TO GERMANY CAME AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO THE U.S. PARTICIPANTS IN THAT MEETING. THEY CANNOT EXPLAIN HOW THE LEGISLATORS EVER RECEIVED SUCH ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION. BE THAT AS IT MAY, SINCE IT EVIDENTLY DID HAPPEN AND IS ERRONEOUS, THE IMPRESSION NEEDS CORRECTING. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO BASIS FOR THE STATEMENT "THE LEGISLATORS WERE GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC U.S. EXPORT INSPECTION CONTROL PROGRAMS, PRODUCTS SHIPPED TO GERMANY DID NOT GENERALLY MEET U.S. FOODS LAWS."

2. THE MEAT INSPECTION ACT AND WHOLESOME POULTRY PRODUCTS ACT REQUIRED THAT ALL MEAT AND POULTRY PASSED BY FEDERAL INSPECTION BE WHOLESOME AND MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THESE ACTS AS AMENDED. ANY PRODUCT WHICH DOES NOT MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS MUST BE DESTROYED FOR HUMAN FOOD PURPOSES. IN SIMPLE LANGUAGE THIS MEANS THAT

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MEAT OR POULTRY PRODUCTS ELIGIBLE FOR SHIPMENT FROM FEDERALLY

INSPECTED PLANTS FOR HUMAN FOOD PURPOSES MUST FIRST MEET ALL DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS.

3. THEN, WHEN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FEDERALLY INSPECTED ESTABLISHMENT DESIRES TO EXPORT THIS MEAT OR POULTRY PRODUCT, THEY MUST ASK OUR INSPECTORS TO CERTIFY THAT THE PRODUCT MEETS ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY EXPRESSED TO US BY THE RECEIVING COUNTRY. THE MEETING OF THESE REQUIREMENTS IS IN ADDITION TO THE UNITED STATES REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN MET. IF SUCH REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT SATISFIED THE MANDATORY U.S. EXPORT CERTIFICATE IS NOT ISSUED.

4. THE "CONCERN ABOUT THE APPROVED USE OF CERTAIN HORMONES IN U.S. MEAT PRODUCTION" IS SO BROADLY STATED IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RESPOND TO. E WOULD NEED MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION AS A BASIS FOR ANY RESPONSE.

5. WE DO RECOGNIZE THAT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION PRACTICES DIFFER IN EVERY COUNTRY OF THE WORLD. WE ARE SURE THAT THERE ARE SOME PRACTICES IN GERMANY THAT DIFFER FROM THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL. WE DO CARRY OUT A RESIDUE MONITORING PROGRAM ON LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED AND OUR RESULTS LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT THE USE OF RESIDUE PRODUCING COMPOUNDS IS CONTROLLED AND NO PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARD IS INDICATED BY OUR FINDINGS. WE ALSO MONITOR MEATS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH U.S. RESIDUE TOLERANCES.

6. A SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF OUR TESTING PROGRAM CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE LEGISLATORS IF THEY DESIRE.

7. IN SUMMARY, MAY WE REPEAT, ALL MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS IN THE UNITED STATES MUST MEET DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS OR THEY WILL BE DESTROYED FOR FOOD PURPOSES. ANY FOREIGN REQUIREMENT DIFFERENT FROM OURS IS COMPLIED WITH BEFORE THE PRODUCT IS RELEASED FOR EXPORT TO THAT COUNTRY. KISSINGER

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